

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-16, and 21-28 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8 and 21-28 stand rejected. Claims 10-16 are allowed. By the present amendment, claims 1-8 and 21-28 have been canceled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claim rejections based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge Examiner's indication that claims 10-16 are allowed.

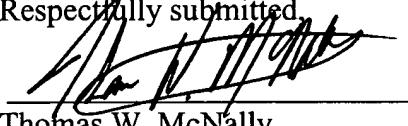
Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1-8 and 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Wallace et al. (U.S. Patent 6,277,681) and Schrems et al (U.S. 6,018,174).

Although Applicants emphatically disagree with the claim rejections above, claims 1-8 and 21-28 have been canceled without prejudice to place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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